

University of Toronto Archives



Leslie Curry Fonds

Compiled by Garron Wells
November 5, 2010

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

B2009-0042

Leslie Curry Fonds

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Textual

Ca 1960-2006
.26 m

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Biographical Note

Leslie Curry was born in November 1922 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. He received the standard grammar school education and at the age of 18 volunteered for the Royal Navy and served in Egypt and Normandy. After the war he attended Kings College at the University of Durham, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in geography and economics in 1949. Two years later he received a masters' degree in geography from Johns Hopkins University while he was a Fulbright Scholar. He worked as an economist at the United Nations and then at Charles Warren Thornthwaite's Laboratory of Climatology in Seabrook, New Jersey. His doctoral degree in geography was awarded from the University of Auckland in New Zealand in 1959.

While at the University of Auckland, he was employed as Lecturer from 1953-1960. He then accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Maryland (1960-1963). In 1964, he moved to the University of Toronto as Associate Professor in the Department of Geography. He moved up the ranks to full Professor in 1965. He was appointed Professor Emeritus following his retirement in 1985. Following his retirement he moved with his second wife, Caryl Pines Curry, to Annapolis, Maryland

In analyzing his body of work, Prof. Curry is described as a “modeler, using stochastic analysis to delve deeply into processes, especially economic, that produce the patterns and flows of the world.”¹ Prof. Curry was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Geographers' Award for Scholarly Distinction in 1977 and the first professor from the University of Toronto to receive the International Geographical Union's prestigious Lauréat d'Honneur 2000. The IGU citation describes him as “‘ a scholar who by way of his contributions in climatology, economic geography and spatial analysis has challenged established lines of thinking and provided valuable new insights into the ways whereby human behavior shapes the world we live in. Professor Curry's theoretical studies in economic geography, especially studies that draw upon the mathematics of probability theory and the concepts of physical systems analysis, have been unmatched in their originality and rigor and have established his international reputation as one of the leading theoreticians in the discipline.’ ”²

He died at his home in Annapolis, Maryland on January 12, 2009.

¹ “In memoriam: Professor Emeritus Leslie Curry” by Dave Unwin. Published online by the Quantitative Methods Research Group (QMRG). Royal Geographical Society. 2009/04/13.

² B2009-0042/001 (03)

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Scope and Content

Records; textual; ca 1960-2006; 0.26 metres

This fonds contains only a small amount of the body of work produced by Prof. Curry during his more than thirty years as an academic and scholar specializing in the theoretical studies in economic geography. The fonds is arranged in three series. Series 1 Correspondence includes correspondence in chronological from his period teaching at the University of Maryland through his career at the University of Toronto as well as subject files. Series 2 Manuscripts is the largest series by volume and contains 25 files relating to both published and unpublished papers, representing less than 50% of his body of work. There is only one file relating to geography courses taught during his time at the University of Toronto. There are no records documenting his studies in England, the United States or New Zealand.

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No further accruals are expected.

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Series 1 Correspondence

Textual; .03 metres; 1962-2008

This series contains 3 files of correspondence, in chronological order, with colleagues at both Canadian and foreign universities, publishers, government officials, and others. Four files document his honours and fellowships, his participation in honouring Professor Fred Lukerman of University of Minnesota and the awarding of a Ph.D based on his body of work, and with Andrew Reed. The file relating to honours for example provides documentation on the IGU Lauréat d'Honneur 2000, testimonials and other correspondence. A copy of his curriculum vitae will be found in file (04).

B2009-0042/001 (01) to (07)

Series 2 Manuscripts

Textual; .20 metres; ca 1960 to 2006

This is the largest series in the fonds containing manuscripts of both published and unpublished papers, articles and reports. It is only a sampling, documenting less than 50% of the more than 60 publications and papers recorded on his curriculum vitae. There is no manuscript or other records relating to his book *The Random Spatial Economy and Its Evolution*. (Aldershot, U.K.: Ashgate, 1998). See Appendix 1 for full list.

B2009-0042/001 (08) – (13)

B2009-0042/002 (01) – (20)

Series 3 Teaching

Textual; .03 metres; ca 1974-1975

This series contains only one file documenting the teaching of a course GGR 498 F on “Development processes in the spatial economy”, Geography 250 “Geographical models of man” and Geography 500 “The use of physical models in studying industrial location”. File includes course outlines and descriptions.

B2009-0042/002 (21)

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Appendix 1 Series 2 Manuscripts

/Box	Title	Dates
/001		
(08)	“Meridional Transfer as a Stochastic Process.” Unpublished paper	Ca 1960
(09)	“A note on spatial association”, <i>Professional Geographer</i> , 18, pp 97-99	1966
(10)	“A wave statistics model for climate time series”, <i>Colloquium on Time Series Analysis</i> . Kansa Geological Survey Computer Contribution 18, pp. 46-50	1967
(11)	“Univariate spatial forecasting”, Proceedings of the International Geographic Union Commission of Quantitative Methods. <i>Economic Geography</i> , 46, 2 pp 241-258	1969
(12)-	“Statistical Spatial Analysis and Remotely Sensed Imagery”, (with E.B.	1972
(13)	McDougall). Final Report to United States Geological Survey, 218pp	
/002		
(01)	“Aggregate dynamic urban models oriented towards policy” (with R.D. McKinnon et al). Centre for Urban and Community Studies, Univ. of Toronto, 419pp	1972
(02)	“Stochastic spatial distributions in equilibrium: settlement theory” in <i>Man, culture and settlement: essays in honor of Professor R.L. Singh</i> . Eds. Kalyani Pubx., New Delhi pp 228-237.	1977
(03)	“Position, flow and person in theoretical geography” in <i>Time and Regional Dynamics</i> , vol. 3 of <i>Timing-space and spacing time</i> . Eds., T.Carlstein, D. Parkes and N. Thrift. London: Edward Arnold.	1978
(04)	“Some ecological aspects of occupational structure”. Paper presented at the IGU Working Group on Systems Analysis and Mathematical Models Sessions at the AAG meetings, Philadelphia, April 1979	1979
(05)	“Macro-ecology of vacancy chains” in <i>Dynamic Spatial Models</i> . Eds D.A. Griffith and R. MacDinnon, NATO Advanced Studies Institute, and Noordhoff, pp 159-185	1981
(06)	“Towards a theory of behaviour and structure” Discussion papers, No. 29, Department of Geography, University of Toronto	May 1981
(07)	“3D statistics of landforms from single air photos: a hypothesis”. <i>Geo-processing</i> 2, 1, 1982, pp 51-64	1982
(08)	“A trade localization operator: the conservative case”. <i>Canadian Geographer</i> , 28, 4, 1984, pp 373-376	1984
(09)	“On the specification of geographical models” unpublished paper	[post 1985]
(10)	“Trade as spatial interaction and central places”. In D.A.Griffith and R.P. Haining (eds) <i>Transformations through space and time</i> N.A.T.O. Advanced Studies Institute Series. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1986 pp 27-58	1986

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/Box	Title	Dates
/002 cont'd		
(11)	“Endogenous geographical change in the economy” in <i>Innovation and the diffusion of technology</i> Vol 12 <i>Advances in modeling innovation diffusion</i> . “forthcoming” -- check	1986
(12)	“The gravity model as a transfer function” unpublished paper	[post 1986]
(13)	“Areal heterogeneity and labour returns” <i>London papers in regional science</i> 17, pp 101-115	1987
(14)	“Evolutionary mechanisms of the spatial economy”. Unpublished paper	[1989?]
(15)	“Toronto commuting: leveling the gravity playing field”. Paper/presentation	[post 1990?]
(16)	“The need for cumulative synthetic theory” <i>Canadian geographer</i> , 35, 1, 1991, pp 2-9	1991
(17)	“Site and situation, an economic interpretation” . Unpublished paper	[post 1993]
(18)	“The going concern as geographical evolution” N.S.F. Conference, University of Connecticut, Storrs – website publication	1997
(19)	“A random walk in Terra Incognita” in P. Gould and F.R. Pitts (eds). <i>Geographical voices</i> Syracuse University Press, 2002 pp. 81-98	2002
(20)	“Spatial entropy: its significance and conservation” Unpublished paper. [similar title to “Spatial Entropy” in <i>International Geography 1972</i> . Toronto. University of Toronto Press, 1972]	[2006?]